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Serving American agriculture and world economic development . . .

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Office of
International
Cooperation and
Development

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A Dual Mission

The mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of International Cooperation and Development (OICD) is twofold:

- *To help other USDA agencies, U.S. universities, and others enhance U.S. agriculture's global competitiveness.*
- *To help increase income and food availability in developing nations by mobilizing expertise for agriculturally led economic growth.*

Strengthening U.S. Agriculture

OICD programs enhance U.S. agriculture's competitiveness by providing linkages to world resources. These linkages often produce new germplasm and technologies that can be vital to improving our current agricultural base and producing new and alternative products.

All of our major agricultural crops, *representing more than 90 percent of U.S. crop value*, originated outside the United States; only the blueberry, cranberry, Jerusalem artichoke, pecan, sunflower, wild rice, and wild grape are native. The U.S. agricultural community needs access to the genetic diversity that still remains in those original sources to be truly competitive.

There was a time when the United States was supreme in agricultural technology, but we no longer have a near monopoly. Much can be gained by seeking out and importing new technology from international agricultural research centers and universities.

OICD helps scientists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, university community, and elsewhere to establish relationships that foster the free flow of ideas and materials internationally.

Providing U.S. Expertise Overseas

The other mission of USDA's international programs is to spur agriculturally led economic growth in developing countries.

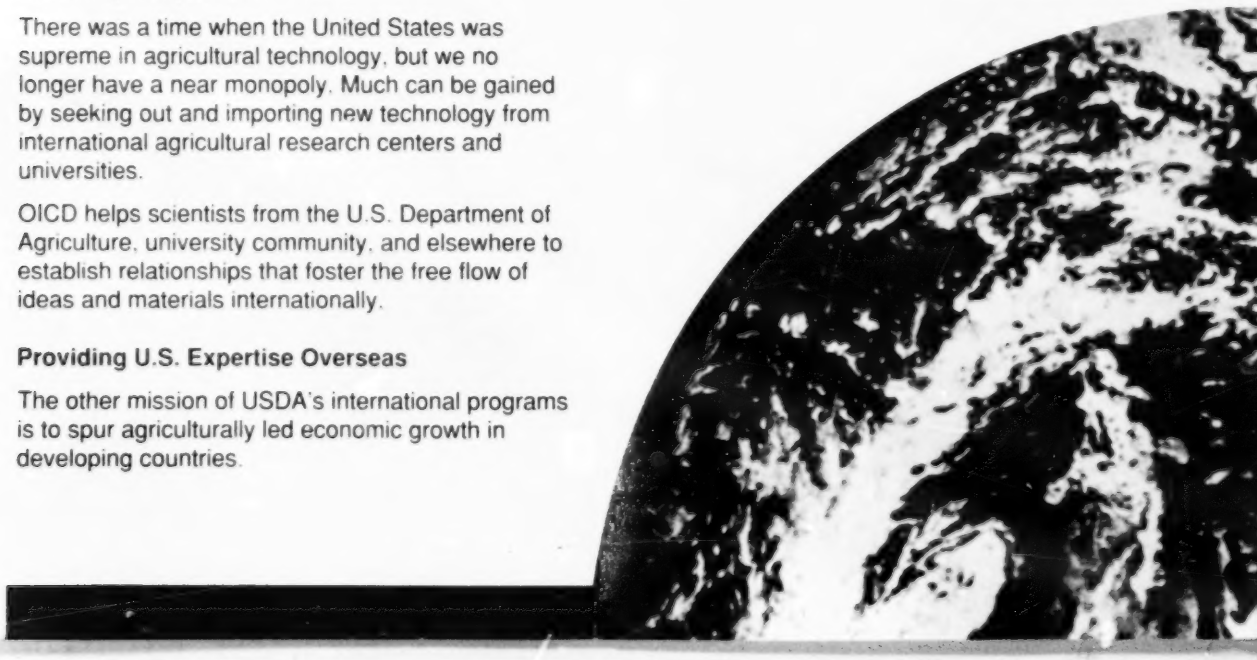
OICD serves as a link between the technical expertise of the U.S. agricultural community and Third World nations. By sharing U.S. agricultural knowledge with less developed nations, the United States provides the tools to help build stable economies and a more prosperous world. In the process, less developed nations surmount the barriers of hunger and poverty.

When agricultural production and incomes increase, people's diets and nutrition improve. Growing incomes also permit them to increase their imports to help meet expanding demands for more and different foods. In fact, history has proven that nations moving from low- to middle-income status have become the largest growth market for U.S. agricultural exports.

An International Two-Way Street

International programs, then, are a two-way street. Developing nations solve problems of hunger and poverty and improve their overall standard of living through USDA-coordinated assistance. U.S. agriculture gains new germplasm, technology, and export opportunities.

By facilitating two-way sharing of knowledge and expertise, OICD forms networks of strong, powerful



linkages — linkages that help keep U.S. agriculture competitive and also contribute significantly to global economic growth and prosperity.

Programs of Mutual Benefit

OICD manages the following programs to serve other USDA agencies, the U.S. Agency for International Development, other public and private institutions, foreign nations, development banks, and the university community:

Scientific Exchanges — Short-term visits between U.S. and foreign scientists help transfer agricultural data, technology, exotic germplasm, and biological materials invaluable in research to improve crops, forestry, and livestock.

Collaborative Research — Through long-term projects, U.S. researchers collaborate with international counterparts on high-priority problems, such as citrus canker or the Africanized honeybee. Research is carried out overseas and funded either by U.S. dollars or by foreign currency, usually at significantly lower cost than is possible in the United States.

International Organizations Liaison — USDA staff advance and protect U.S. agricultural interests by keeping U.S. policy views before the international community through agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the World Food Council.

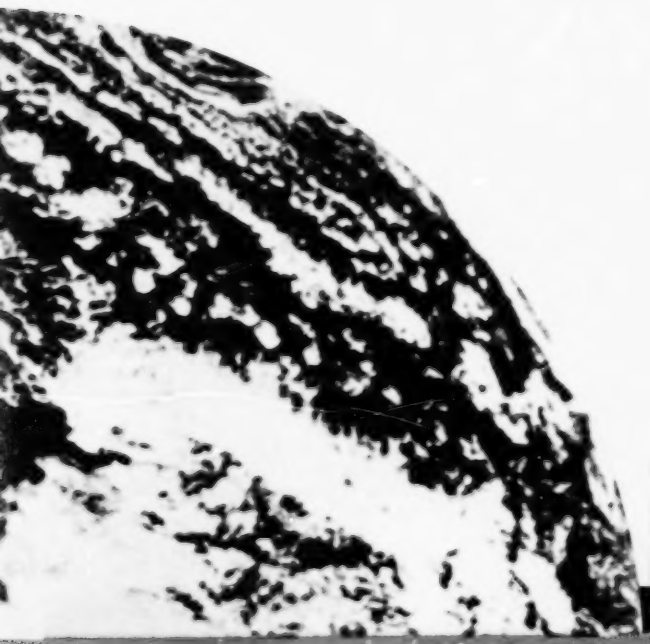
Technical Assistance — Financed primarily by the U.S. Agency for International Development, technical assistance programs increase income and food consumption and help maintain or enhance the natural resource base in developing countries. Technical expertise is provided in areas like food processing and distribution, quality control, soil and water conservation, and timber management.

Professional Development and Training — Career-related training for foreign agriculturalists provides a long-term benefit to economic development, magnifying potential because those who learn teach others. For example:

- In the Cochran Fellowship Program, young professionals from middle-income countries are exposed to U.S. systems, goods, and services to foster mutual trade and development interests.
- Technical short courses in the agricultural sciences are taught by USDA or U.S. university staff in the United States. In response to demand, courses are often taught in other countries as well.
- OICD assists other governments and international development organizations by arranging U.S. academic and non-degree training programs.

Trade and Investment Missions — The Department promotes a vital, healthy private sector in the United States and abroad through programs in OICD's Food Industries Division. OICD organizes marketing workshops, in-country technical team visits, and trade missions which link U.S. and foreign entrepreneurs to expand business opportunities.

Information — An Agribusiness Information Center provides information needed by U.S. investors and



exporters and their foreign counterparts. Availability of details on import and export regulations, commodity grades and standards, and financing can mean the difference between success and failure in a business venture.

A Technical Information Staff responds to individual requests from U.S. Agency for International Development missions around the world, providing information from USDA and other sources on items ranging from mango processing to research on embryo transfer technology.

Disaster Assistance — Financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development, OICD manages a disaster assistance program in collaboration with USDA's Forest Service. The program prepares people to respond to natural disasters like forest fires, floods, landslides, and earthquakes.

USDA Links University/ Government/Private Sector Expertise

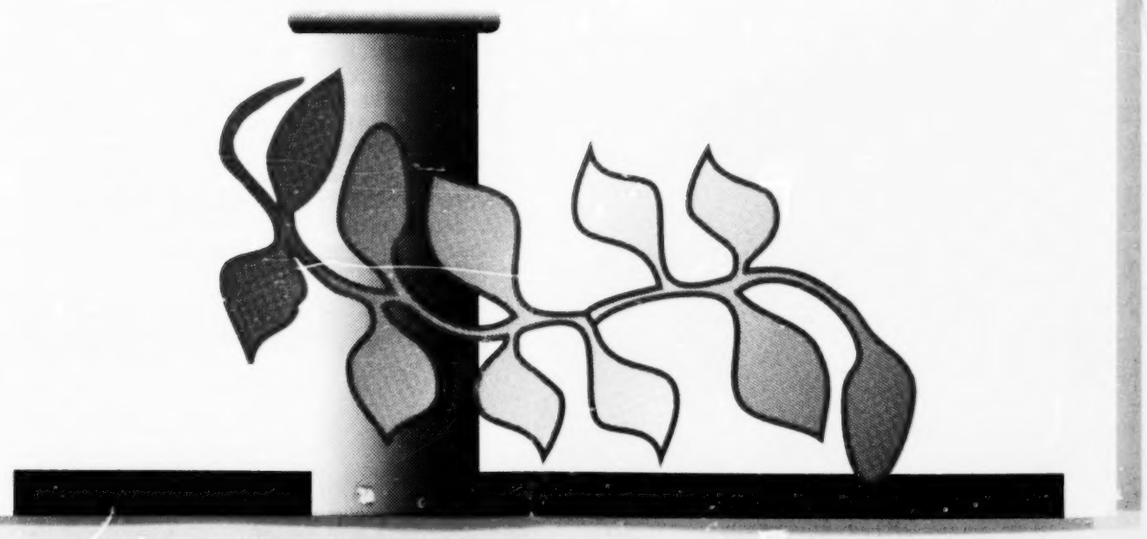
The Department, through OICD, brings together the U.S. and international communities. Among USDA agencies ready to share their technical expertise are:

* Agricultural Cooperative Service
* Agricultural Marketing Service
* Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
* Agricultural Research Service
* Forest Service
* Economic Research Service
* Extension Service
* Soil Conservation Service
* National Agricultural Statistics Service
* Foreign Agricultural Service
* Cooperative State Research Service
* National Agricultural Library
* Office of Information Resources Management
* Federal Grain Inspection Service
* Office of Transportation

OICD also helps international organizations and other nations link with the U.S. university system, the private sector, and other U.S. Government agencies, like the Food and Drug Administration or the Environmental Protection Agency.

Funding

While some of the collaborative programs are financed by Congressional appropriations, the development activities are mainly funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, development banks, and other governments and organizations in the United States and abroad.



For more information, contact:

Office of International Cooperation and Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture
External Affairs/Rm. 3123 South Building
14th and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-4300

Smithsonian Metro Stop (Independence Ave. exit)

Phone: (202)245-5798 FAX: (202)245-5803

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